

From: Hubbard, Joseph
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1 – Enviro's sue EPA over Texas ozone woes, Greenwire, 5/22/14

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/05/22/stories/1060000057>

A persistent ozone problem in urban areas of North Texas has led the Sierra Club to sue U.S. EPA, saying it failed to enforce pollution regulations. When the Dallas-Fort Worth area failed to meet federal standards last June, a 1997 rule required the region's violation status to increase from "serious" to "severe," a change that would mandate tighter pollution controls.

2 - Fracking foes prompt release of information and extension of comment period on St. Tammany drilling proposal, Time Picayune, 5/22/14

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/05/fracking_opponents_force_relea.html

In what amounts to a victory for anti-fracking forces in St. Tammany Parish, government agencies have agreed to make public a permit application from a company that wants to drill an oil well near Mandeville and have reopened the citizen comment period for the project until June 16. The agreements are in response to court filings in U.S. District Court in New Orleans and 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge last week by Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Quality to halt its reviews of the project.

3 – New cleanup procedures in place after bucket with Exide battery chips falls off truck, Dallas Morning News, 5/22/14

<http://friscoblog.dallasnews.com/2014/05/new-cleanup-procedures-proposed-after-bucket-with-exide-battery-chips-falls-off-truck.html/>

New procedures are in place for cleanup of waste from the Exide Technologies battery recycling plant after a bucket containing some battery chips fell off the back of a pickup truck earlier this month.

It hasn't been found. No one can say whether the plastic pieces from recycled automotive batteries were hazardous. Exide spokesman David Margulies said other battery chips previously collected from the creek area by the city were tested and found not to be hazardous. These chips were collected from sediment and a creek bank wall. "Hopefully people will not be alarmed," he said.

4 – Top Official, Industry Lawyer Battle Over Need For CWA Jurisdiction Rule, Inside EPA, 5/22/14

<http://insideepa.com/201405222471797/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/top-official-industry-lawyer-battle-over-need-for-cwa-jurisdiction-rule/menu-id-95.html?s=dn>

Administration and industry officials are battling over whether regulators need the pending rule clarifying the reach of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to bring enforcement actions against "midnight" dumpers of pollutants in small headwaters upstream of jurisdictional waters.

5 – Remaining Suits Pose Hurdles For CSAPR But Observers Doubt Impacts, Inside EPA, 5/22/14

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201405222471714/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/remaining-suits-pose-hurdles-for-csapr-but-observers-doubt-impacts/menu-id-202.html?s=dn>

A handful of pending lawsuits over EPA's implementation of its Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) pose lingering legal hurdles to the agency's ability to revive the regulation after the Supreme Court upheld the rule, but legal observers doubt the suits pose the risk of undoing the entire 28-state air quality trading program.

6 – Pushing Climate Change as an Issue This Year, but With an Eye on 2016, New York Times, 5/22/14

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/22/us/politics/tom-steyer-hopes-nextgen-climate-gets-voters-to-consider-environment.html?_r=1

Tom Steyer, a billionaire environmental activist from California, wants to blast the issue of climate change to the front lines of American politics. His “super PAC,” NextGen Climate, will spend about \$100 million this year to influence several Senate and governor’s races in which climate change could play a major role.

7 – Moniz Says Boost in Energy Efficiency Needed to Address Climate Change, BNA, 5/21/14

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=47002959&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0f0v0g7j0&split=0

An “enormous contribution” from energy efficiency will be needed for an effective solution to climate change, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said May 21, as the Obama administration moved forward with administrative actions to promote energy conservation.

8 - Apple VP Lisa Jackson talks environmental initiatives, plans to get renewable energy in retail to 100% (Video), 9T05Mac, 5/21/14

<http://9to5mac.com/2014/05/21/apple-vp-lisa-jackson-talks-environmental-initiatives-plans-to-get-renewable-energy-in-retail-to-100-video/>

Apple’s Lisa Jackson, who joined Apple in June last year to oversee environmental issues from her previous position as head of the Environmental Protection Agency, sat down for an interview this week with Fortune. As you’d expect, the topic of conversation was all things environmental issues at Apple and Jackson talks about many of the accomplishments the company recently announced for Earth Day. In addition to just stats and Apple’s renewable energy initiatives— Apple’s supply chain is responsible for 60% of its footprint— she also gives some hints at what Apple plans to improve in the future.

9 – Fracking ban an issue in Mora County races, Albuq Journal, 5/23/14

<http://www.abqjournal.com/404889/news/opponents-argue-its-unlikely-to-stand-in-court.html>

In less than two weeks, Mora County voters will go to the polls to select a majority of the County Commission and, this year, the small, rural county has an issue that’s attracted national attention. The contests in the Democratic primary have turned into something of a referendum on a controversial ordinance that attempts to put the rights to natural resources, specifically oil and gas, in the hands of communities over the interests of corporations.

10 – NOAA forecast for 2014: 3 to 6 hurricanes, one or 2 Category 3 or greater, Advocate, 5/23/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/05/21/stories/1059999965>

Near-normal ocean surface temperatures and the probability that an El Niño climate condition will form later this summer led forecasters with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to predict a near-average hurricane season this year. The Atlantic hurricane season officially begins June 1.

11 - St. Bernard water system analyzed, rate increase advocated in recent report, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 5/22/14

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/05/st_bernard_water_system_analyz.html#incart_river

The St. Bernard Parish water system has undergone a preliminary case study to determine whether a rate increase is needed. While a more in-depth analysis is expected to be completed in July, the initial answer is "yes," a rate increase appears needed as revenue continues to drop below expenses and major infrastructure improvements are wanting, according to the preliminary study.

12 - Residents pack meeting to oppose corps proposal, Daily Comet, 5/22/14

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20140522/ARTICLES/140529857?template=printpicart>

Lafourche Parish officials plan to fight a proposal that could cause dozens of Raceland landowners to lose their property as a result of efforts to compensate for levees and drainage work to protect areas surrounding New Orleans from hurricanes.

13 - Report ranks Louisiana among top states for green energy jobs, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 5/21/14

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/05/dow_chemical_execs_advocate_pr.html

Louisiana was one of the nation's top green energy job creators during the first three months of this year thanks to plans for a \$20 million recycled manufacturing plant in the northwest part of the state, according to an analysis by Environmental Entrepreneurs. This is the first time Louisiana has cracked the top 10 since the organization started ranking states by green energy jobs in 2011.

14- Railroad Commission Sides With Driller on Well Protest, Texas Tribune, 5/23/2014

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/05/22/drilling-water-interests-clash-on-disposal/>

The Railroad Commission on Thursday sided with Marathon Oil Company's bid to dismiss a groundwater conservation district's protest of its application to inject waste into part of South Texas' Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. But the three-person commission did not address the driller's broader argument that no groundwater district has standing to protest a disposal well application.